

# WHAT IS THE MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS?

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is a Council of Governments (COG) that serves as the regional agency for the metropolitan Phoenix area. When MAG was formed in 1967, the elected officials recognized the need for long range planning and policy development on a regional scale. They realized that many issues such as transportation and air quality affected residents beyond the borders of their individual jurisdictions.

MAG was founded in the spirit of cooperation. MAG members believe that by uniting, they can solve common problems, take an active role in long range regional issues and address concerns that affect all of the communities.

MAG is the designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for transportation planning in the Maricopa County region. MAG has also been designated by the Governor to serve as the principal planning agency for the region in a number of other areas, including air quality, water quality and solid waste management. In addition, through an Executive Order from the Governor, MAG develops population estimates and projections for the region.



## WHAT IS MAG's PURPOSE?

The MAG By-Laws contain an underlying concept for the organization:

*"The Maricopa Association of Governments is based on the principle that cities, towns and counties, which are closest to the people, should exercise the basic initiative and leadership and should have the primary responsibility for addressing those local problems and needs which require action on an area-wide or regional basis."*



The Articles of Incorporation for MAG state that the association was formed to do the following:

- Provide a forum for discussion and study of regional problems of mutual interest to the governments in the region.
- Ensure through cooperation and the pooling of common resources, maximum efficiency and economy in governmental operations which will provide every citizen with the utmost value for every dollar.
- Identify and comprehensively plan for the solution of regional problems requiring multi-city, town and county cooperation.
- Facilitate agreements among the governmental units for specific projects or other interrelated developmental actions or for the adoption of common policies with respect to problems that are common to its members.
- Attain the greatest degree of intergovernmental cooperation possible in order to prepare for future growth and development of the region.

## WHO MAKES UP THE MEMBERSHIP OF MAG?

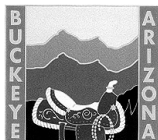
The MAG membership currently consists of the 25 incorporated cities and towns within Maricopa County and the contiguous urbanized area, the Gila River Indian Community, the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, Maricopa County, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC). ADOT and CTOC serve as ex-officio members for transportation-related issues. Following is a listing of MAG member agencies.



**City of Apache Junction**  
1001 North Idaho Road  
Apache Junction, AZ 85219  
Phone: (480) 982-8002  
Fax: (480) 671-5110  
*Mayor Douglas Coleman*



**City of Avondale**  
525 North Central  
Avondale, AZ 85323  
Phone: (623) 932-2400  
Fax: (623) 932-2205  
*Mayor Ron Drake*



**Town of Buckeye**  
100 North Apache, Ste. A  
Buckeye, AZ 85326  
Phone: (623) 386-7830  
Fax: (623) 386-7832  
*Mayor Dusty Hull*



**Town of Carefree**  
Box 740, Carefree, AZ 85377  
Phone: (480) 488-1471  
Fax: (480) 488-3845  
*Mayor Edward C. Morgan*



**Town of Cave Creek**  
37622 North Cave Creek Road  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331  
Phone: (480) 488-1400  
Fax: (480) 488-2263  
*Vice-Mayor Ralph Mozilo*



**City of Chandler**  
P. O. Box 4008 Mail Stop 603  
Chandler, AZ 85224-4008  
Phone: (480) 782-2210  
Fax: (480) 782-2209  
*Mayor Boyd Dunn*



**City of El Mirage**  
Box 26, El Mirage, AZ 85335  
Phone: (623) 972-8116  
Fax: (623) 972-8110  
*Mayor Robert Robles*



**Town of Fountain Hills**  
Box 17958  
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268  
Phone: (480) 837-2003  
Fax: (480) 837-3145  
*Mayor Jon Beydler*



**Town of Gila Bend**  
PO Box A, Gila Bend, AZ 85337  
Phone: (928) 683-2255  
Fax: (928) 683-6430  
*Mayor Chuck Turner*



**Gila River Indian Community**  
PO Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85247  
Phone: (520) 562-6000  
Fax: (520) 562-3422  
*Governor Richard P. Narcia*



**Town of Gilbert**  
1025 South Gilbert Road  
Gilbert, AZ 85234  
Phone: (480) 503-6862  
Fax: (480) 497-4943  
*Mayor Steve Berman*



**City of Glendale**  
5850 West Glendale Avenue  
Glendale, AZ 85301  
Phone: (623) 930-2260  
Fax: (623) 915-2690  
*Mayor Elaine Scruggs*



**City of Goodyear**  
190 North Litchfield Road  
Goodyear, AZ 85338  
Phone: (623) 932-3910  
Fax: (623) 932-1177  
*Vice Mayor Seth Kanter*



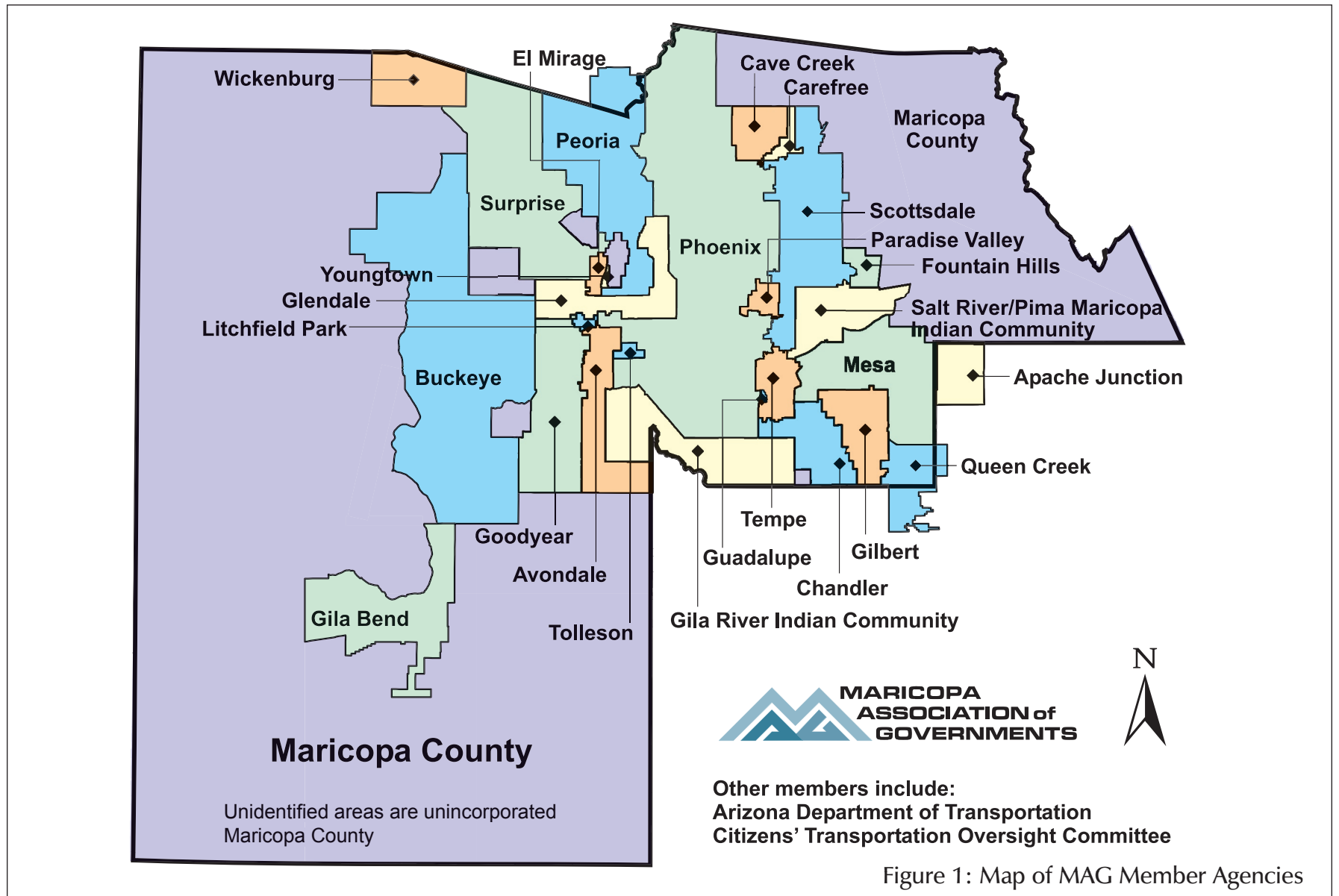
**Town of Guadalupe**  
9241 South Avenida del Yaqui  
Guadalupe, AZ 85283  
Phone: (480) 730-3080  
Fax: (480) 730-3097  
*Mayor Margarita Cota*



**City of Litchfield Park**  
214 West Wigwam Boulevard  
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340  
Phone: (623) 935-5033  
Fax: (623) 935-5427  
*Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas*

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# MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS MEMBER AGENCIES



## MAG MEMBERSHIP (Continued)



### Maricopa County

301 West Jefferson  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  
Phone: (602) 506-7431  
Fax: (602) 506-6362  
*Supervisor Don Stapley*



### City of Mesa

Box 1466, Mesa, AZ 85211  
Phone: (480) 644-2309  
Fax: (480) 644-2175  
*Mayor Keno Hawker*



### Town of Paradise Valley

6401 East Lincoln  
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253  
Phone: (480) 348-3690  
Fax: (480) 951-3715  
*Mayor Edward Lowry*



### City of Peoria

8401 West Monroe Street  
Peoria, AZ 85345  
Phone: (623) 773-7300  
Fax: (623) 773-7309  
*Mayor John Keegan*



### City of Phoenix

200 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1611  
Phone: (602) 262-7958  
Fax: (602) 256-3325  
*Mayor Skip Rimsza*



### Town of Queen Creek

22350 South Ellsworth  
Queen Creek, AZ 85242-9311  
Phone: (480) 987-9887  
Fax: (480) 987-0109  
*Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr*



### Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

10005 East Osborn Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85256  
Phone: (480) 850-7277  
Fax: (480) 850-8014  
*President Joni Ramos*



### City of Scottsdale

3939 Drinkwater Boulevard  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
Phone: (480) 312-2422  
Fax: (480) 312-2738  
*Mayor Mary Manross*



### City of Surprise

12425 West Bell Road, Ste. D-100, Surprise, AZ 85374  
Phone: (623) 583-1080  
Fax: (623) 583-1091  
*Mayor Joan Shafer*



### City of Tempe

Box 5002, Tempe, AZ 85281  
Phone: (480) 350-8865  
Fax: (480) 350-8996  
*Mayor Neil Giuliano*



### City of Tolleson

9555 West Van Buren  
Tolleson, AZ 85353  
Phone: (623) 936-7111  
Fax: (623) 936-7117  
*Mayor Adolfo Gamez*



### Town of Wickenburg

155 North Tegner, Ste. A  
Wickenburg, AZ 85390  
Phone: (928) 684-5451  
Fax: (602) 506-1580  
*Mayor Lon McDermott*



### Town of Youngtown

12030 Clubhouse Square  
Youngtown, AZ 85363  
Phone: (623) 933-8286  
Fax: (623) 933-5951  
*Mayor Daphne Green*



### Arizona Department of Transportation

206 South 17th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Phone: (602) 712-7011  
Fax: (602) 712-7659  
*Board Members Dallas Gant and Joe Lane*



### Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee

206 South 17th Avenue, MD 118A, Phoenix, AZ  
Phone: (602) 712-7519  
Fax: (602) 712-8001  
*F. Rockne Arnett*



# COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS NATIONALLY AND IN ARIZONA

## What Is a Council of Governments?

A Council of Governments (COG), or Regional Council, is a public organization encompassing a multi-jurisdictional regional community. A COG serves the local governments and the citizens of the region by dealing with issues and needs that cross city, town, county and even state boundaries. Mechanisms used to address these issues include communication, planning, policymaking, coordination, advocacy and technical assistance.

## Why are there COGs in the United States?

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, emphasis was increasingly placed on the need for long-range planning and closer coordination of program activities by governments at all levels. Federal requirements for planning in areas such as transportation, the environment and human services furthered this need. The establishment of COGs emerged as the preferred approach to this need in many areas.

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\* A description of Metropolitan Planning Organizations begins on page 7.

## What about COGs in Arizona?

In Arizona, there are six COGs. Through an Executive Order, the planning boundaries were established by Governor Jack Williams in 1970 in response to federal planning requirements and in an effort to achieve uniformity in various planning areas. COGs, as voluntary associations, have formed within these planning boundaries. A map depicting COGs in Arizona is included in Figure 2, on page 6.

In the urban areas, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and the Pima Association of Governments are the regional agencies that also serve as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)\* for transportation planning. In the rural areas of Arizona, the COGs perform planning services and direct service functions such as operating the Area Agency on Aging, Head Start programs and employment programs.



# ARIZONA COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT

## Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)

*Chairman:* Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Town of Queen Creek

*Interim Executive Director:* Dennis Smith, 602-254-6300

Counties within boundary: Maricopa

Number of member agencies: 31

## Pima Association of Governments (PAG)

*Chairman:* Supervisor Ann Day, Pima County

*Executive Director:* Thomas L. Swanson 520-792-1093

Counties within boundary: Pima

Number of member agencies: 7

## South Eastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO)

*Chairman:* Councilmember Bob Rivera, Town of Thatcher

*Executive Director:* Joe Brannan, 520-432-5301

Counties within boundary: Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz

Number of member agencies: 18

## Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG)

*Chairman:* Supervisor A. G. Chip Davis, Yavapai County

*Executive Director:* Kenneth J. Sweet, 520-774-1895

Counties within boundary: Apache, Coconino, Navajo and Yavapai

Number of member agencies: 25

## Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG)

*Chairman:* Supervisor Joe Sanchez, Gila County

*Executive Director:* Maxine Leather, 520-689-5004

Counties within boundary: Pinal & Gila

Number of member agencies: 25

## Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG)

*Chairman:* Councilmember Jacquie Jessie, City of Bullhead City

*Executive Director:* Brian Babiars, 520-782-1886

Counties within boundary: La Paz, Mohave and Yuma

Number of member agencies: 16

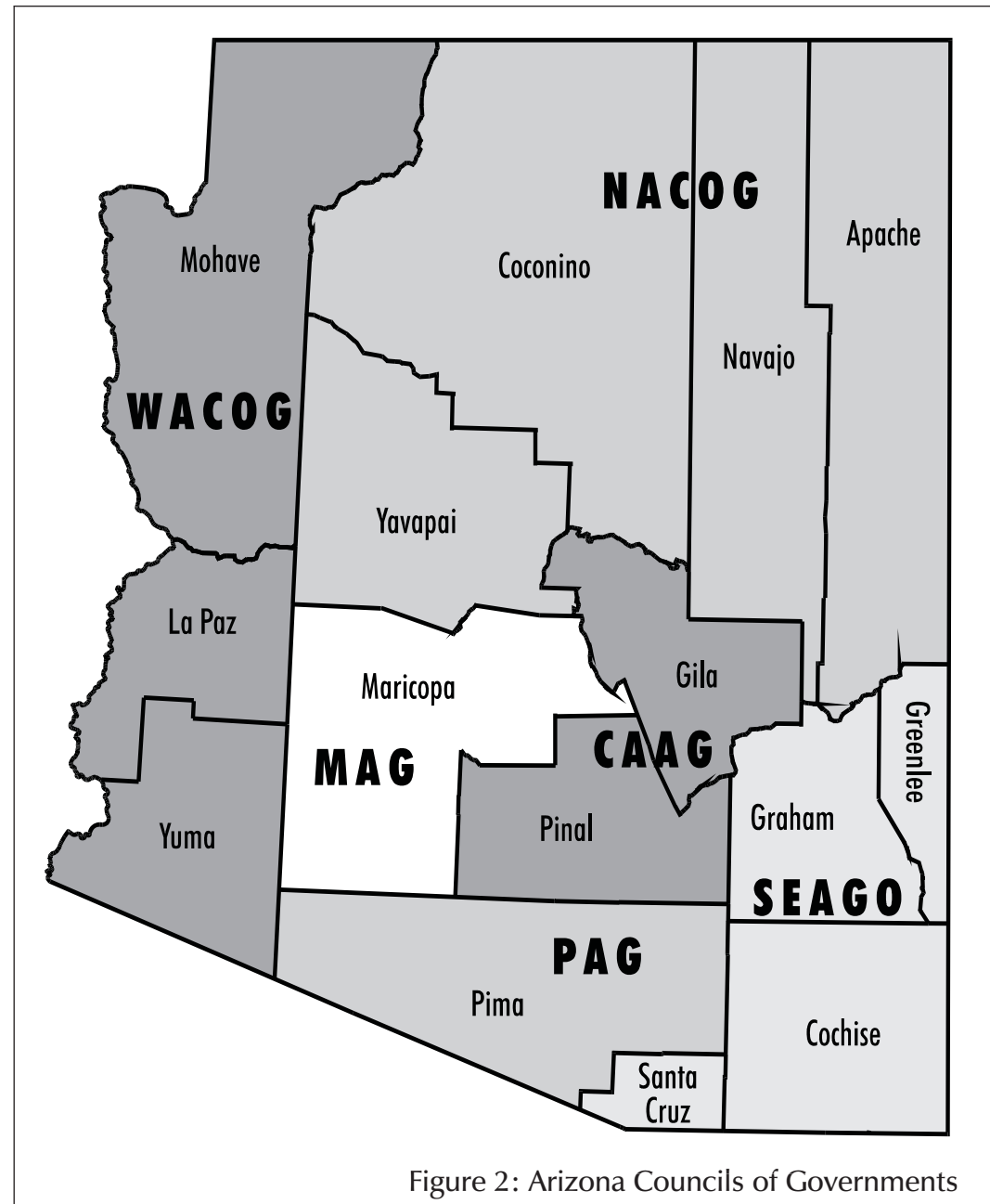


Figure 2: Arizona Councils of Governments

## WHAT IS A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION?

In 1973, the Federal Transportation Act required that each urbanized area (area with 50,000 or more population) establish a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The federal law required that the governor of the state designate the agency to serve as the MPO. MAG was designated as the MPO for this region in 1973.

In 1991, President Bush signed into law the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). This Act enunciated its statement of policy as follows:

“To develop a National Intermodal Transportation System that is economically efficient, environmentally sound, provides the foundation for the nation to compete in the global economy and will move people and goods in an energy efficient manner.”

ISTEA recognized the challenge of addressing congestion and air quality issues in urbanized areas and determined that MPOs could address these issues. The enhanced planning role for MPOs was defined in the ISTEA regulations as follows:

“Metropolitan Planning Organizations, in cooperation with the State, shall develop

transportation plans and programs for urbanized areas of the state. Such plans and programs shall provide for the development of transportation facilities that will function as an intermodal transportation system for the State, the metropolitan areas, and the Nation. The process for developing such plans and programs shall provide for consideration of all modes of transportation and shall be continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive to the degree appropriate, based on the complexity of the transportation problems.”

ISTEA requires MPOs to have a proactive public involvement process and to represent all modes of transportation. For large urban areas (over 200,000 in population), Congress provided a greater role by having the Secretary of Transportation certify these as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs). Metropolitan Planning Organizations that are designated as TMAs have greater requirements for congestion management, project selection and certification. In addition to receiving greater requirements, MPOs were also provided a larger amount of federal transportation funding. The succeeding federal legislation enacted in 1998, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), further

strengthened the role of the MPO in regional transportation planning. TEA-21 requires that:

“the MPO, public transit agency, and State shall cooperatively develop estimates of funds that are reasonably expected to be available to support program implementation.”

This change, together with recent cooperative efforts by the State and representatives from the MPOs and COGs, has enhanced the role of the MPO in regional transportation decision-making. TEA-21 also had the added benefit of largely reducing the status of transportation tax “donor” states and providing an almost 60 percent average annual increase in federal funds to Arizona.

The Maricopa Association of Governments serves as the MPO for the Maricopa County area. The Pima Association of Governments serves as the designated MPO for the Pima County region. In Yuma County, the Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization serves as the MPO for the Yuma urbanized area. In Coconino County, the Flagstaff Metropolitan Planning Organization serves as the MPO for the Flagstaff urbanized area.

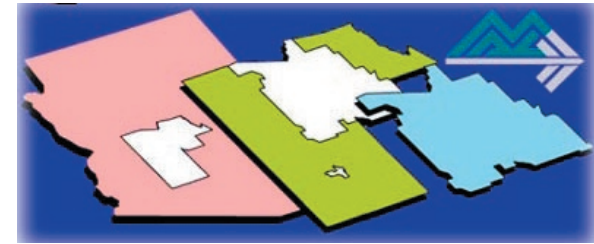
# HISTORY OF MAG IMPETUS, FORMATION & DESIGNATIONS

In Maricopa County, local government cooperation in the early 1960's resulted in the implementation of the multi-city sewage treatment plant at 91st Avenue. This regional activity occurred prior to federal and state initiatives and incentives for regional planning and cooperation. In 1962, changes in federal policy required more local and state involvement. As a result of changes in the Federal Aid Highway Act, cooperative transportation planning occurred with the creation of the Valley Area Traffic and Transportation Study (VATTS). As part of the federal government decentralization initiatives, federal regions were established to bring federal programs closer to the people and incorporate greater review of federal programs through the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act.

Because of the changing federal policies requiring more local planning and review, and the demonstrated success of previous regional efforts, the local governments in Maricopa County formed the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) in 1967. MAG was developed as a nonprofit corporation to act as the vehicle to address areas of common regional interest. At the first meeting of MAG, the consensus of the Regional Council was that the areas

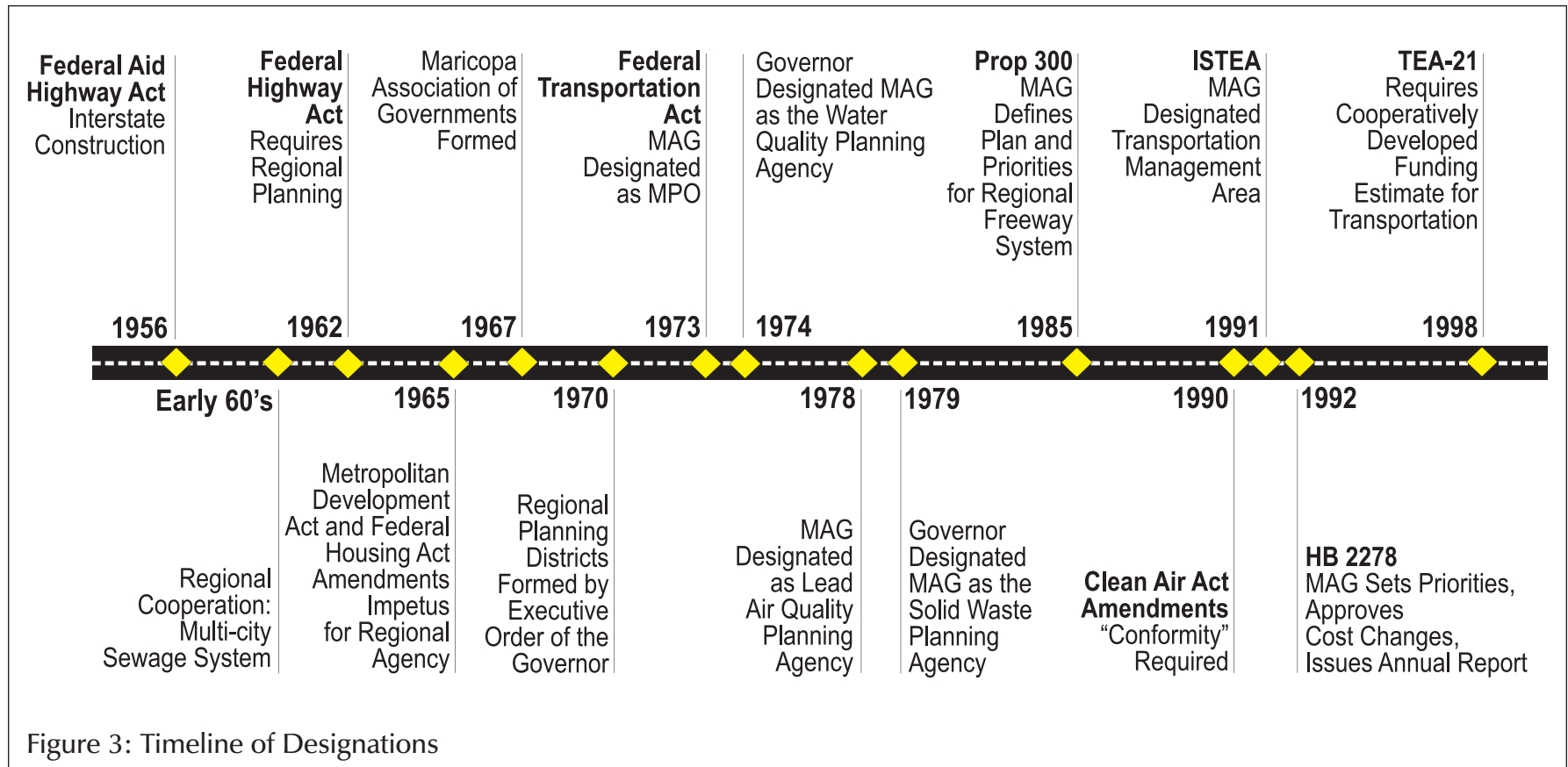
of water, air pollution and solid waste disposal were of primary concern. It was also agreed that there was a need for the standardization of building materials and for public works specifications. In addition, the transportation planning efforts that had begun with VATTS were incorporated into the scope of MAG's work. Several key events in the early history of MAG are outlined here:

- Regional cooperation was encouraged by success of multi-city sewage system in the early 1960s.
- The 1962 Federal Aid Highway Act required regional transportation planning, which resulted in the formation of the Valley Area Traffic and Transportation Area Study (VATTS) on March 12, 1965.
- The 1965 Federal Housing Act Amendments and 1966 Metropolitan Development Act provided legal and financial impetus for a full-fledged regional agency.
- MAG was formed in 1967 by concurrent resolutions from its member agencies to foster regional cooperation and to address regional problems.
- VATTS was incorporated into MAG in 1967.
- Executive Order 70-2 established six Planning Districts in Arizona in 1970.
- MAG was designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by the Governor in 1973.
- MAG was designated as the Water Quality Planning Agency by the Governor in 1974.
- MAG was designated as the Lead Air Quality Planning Agency by the Governor in 1978.
- MAG was designated as the Solid Waste Planning Agency in 1979.





## TIMELINE OF MAG DESIGNATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS



## HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE AT MAG?

**The Regional Council** is the governing and policymaking body for the organization and is composed of elected officials appointed by each member agency. For the majority of members, the city or town mayor serves as the Regional Council member. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors usually represents Maricopa County on the Regional Council. The State Transportation Board members for Maricopa County represent the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The Chairman of the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee also serves on the Regional Council. Currently, the Governor of the Gila River Indian Community and the President of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community serve on the Regional Council.



**The Executive Committee** consists of at least three Regional Council members who are elected at the annual meeting to serve for one year (until the next annual meeting). The Executive Committee is required to include the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer of the Regional Council as ex-officio members. In June 2002, the Executive Committee was expanded to seven members to allow for additional participation by the member agencies. The MAG By-Laws indicate that the business that arises between meetings of the Regional Council can be conducted by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee also serves as the Finance Committee.

**The Management Committee** consists of the chief administrators from each member agency. For cities, towns and the County, the manager is the Management Committee representative. Community managers represent Indian Communities, and the directors of ADOT and the Regional Public Transportation Authority represent their respective agency on the Management Committee.

### What is the Role of the Management Committee?

The role of the Management Committee is to assist in policy making. Members of the Management Committee are strongly

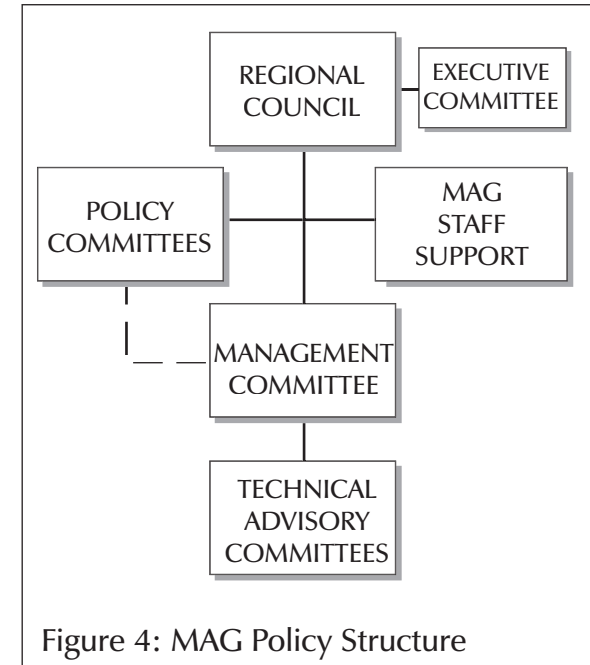


Figure 4: MAG Policy Structure

encouraged to brief their Regional Council representative on MAG related issues. The types of information provided by the manager include previous public input, pros and cons, technical and policy implications, prior committee actions, and action needed from the Regional Council.

Several policy and technical advisory committees have been established to provide assistance to the Regional Council on specific topics. A chart depicting the MAG policy structure is provided in Figure 4.

# MAG COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

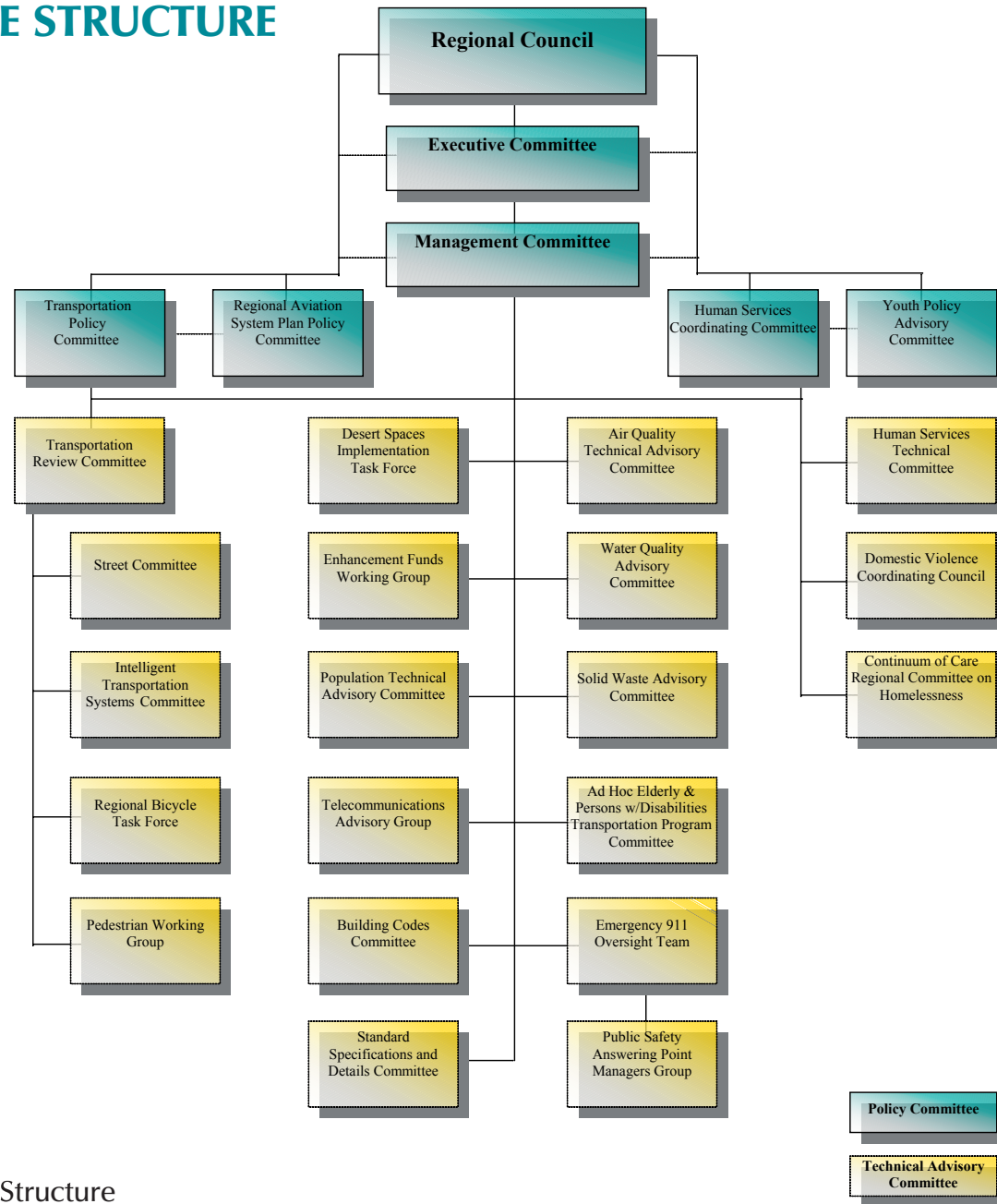


Figure 5: MAG Committee Structure

## POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Several committees have been established to provide specific policy recommendations to the Management Committee and Regional Council. These committees are established by the Regional Council and are generally composed of local elected officials, agency staff, industry or business representatives and citizen representatives. Some MAG committees have a specific composition established by the Regional Council. Those with prescribed memberships are marked with the pound (#) sign. Committees with citizen representatives are marked with an asterisk (\*).

### Transportation Policy Committee #

Members of this committee include elected officials and private sector representatives from the region appointed by the MAG Regional Council to help develop regional transportation policy positions for Regional Council consideration.

Chairman: **Mayor Neil Giuliano**,  
City of Tempe  
Staff Contact: *Dennis Smith*

### Regional Domestic Violence Council\*

Members of the council are drawn from local elected officials, members of the Governor's Office, business community, police officers, shelter and service providers, and private funders. The council is charged with implementing the 41 recommendations of the MAG Domestic Violence Plan.

Chairman: **Councilmember Peggy Bilsten**,  
City of Phoenix  
Staff Contact: *Dennis Smith*

### Human Services Coordinating Committee \*

Members of this committee include elected officials and staff and representatives from the boards of the Area Agency on Aging, various Community Councils and United Ways. The committee prepares an annual Human Services Plan for the Maricopa County region, solicits comments, develops recommendations on the distribution of federal Social Service Block Grant funds, analyzes issues and identifies possible solutions.

Chairman: **Councilmember Dennis Cahill**,  
City of Tempe  
Staff Contact: *Dennis Smith*

### Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness\*

Members of this committee include local and state elected officials, representatives of the Governor's Office, service provider agencies, business representatives, funders and advocates. The committee prepares an annual homeless plan and submits an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Chairman: **Ernie Calderon**, Jennings,  
Strouss and Salmon  
Staff Contact: *Charlene Moran Flaherty*

### Regional Aviation System Plan Policy Committee #

Members of the committee include elected officials from the cities and towns in the Phoenix metropolitan area, the state, the federal government (including the military) and the Gila River Indian Community. This committee is responsible for providing policy input and guidance to the development of the *MAG Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP)* and related aviation studies. Users of the aviation system are also invited to all meetings and have an opportunity to offer input.

Chairman: **Mayor Elaine Scruggs**,  
City of Glendale  
Staff Contact: *Harry Wolfe*

### Youth Policy Advisory Committee

Members of this committee include elected officials who make recommendations to the MAG Regional Council on regional strategies to address the positive development of youth, while reducing negative activities related to juvenile crime.

Chairman: **Mayor Mary Manross**,  
City of Scottsdale  
Staff Contact: *Dennis Smith*



## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Due to the technical complexity of many MAG programs, committees consisting of professional experts are often needed to assist in program development. These committees are generally appointed by the Management Committee. Members are usually from city, town and county staffs, as well as local, state and federal agencies and in some cases, the private sector. Some MAG committees have a specific composition established by the Regional Council. Those with prescribed memberships are marked with the pound (#) sign. Committees with citizen representatives are marked with an asterisk (\*).

### **Ad Hoc Elderly & Persons with Disabilities Transportation Committee\* #**

This committee consists of representatives from MAG member agencies and regional transportation agencies. The committee develops recommendations for the Arizona Department of Transportation regarding the prioritization of applicants to receive FTA Section 5310 capital assistance awards in the form of vehicles to transport elderly individuals and persons with disabilities.

Chairman: **Ralph Velez**,  
City of Tolleson  
Staff Contact: *Dennis Smith*

### **Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee\***

This committee is comprised of representatives from MAG member agencies, citizens, environmental interests, health interests, automobile industry, fuel industry, utilities, public transit, trucking industry, rock products industry, construction firms, housing industry, architecture, agriculture, industry, business, parties to the Air Quality Memorandum of Agreement, and various state and federal agencies. The role of the Technical Advisory Committee is to review and comment on technical information generated during the planning process and to make recommendations to the MAG Management Committee.

Chairman: **Stephen Cleveland**,  
City of Goodyear  
Staff Contact: *Lindy Bauer*

### **Building Codes Committee**

This committee consists of building officials from MAG member agencies. The committee makes recommendations on the development, interpretation and enforcement of building codes in Maricopa County.

Chairman: **Bob Lee**,  
Town of Cave Creek  
Staff Contact: *Michelle Green*

### **Desert Spaces Implementation Task Force\***

The Task Force includes experts in open space preservation and acquisition. Its members include parks directors from MAG member agencies, representatives of local and national land trusts, and federal and state government. It is responsible for recommending implementation of the MAG Desert Spaces Plan.

Chairman: **Jim Burke**,  
City of Phoenix  
Staff Contact: *Jack Tomasik*

### **Enhancement Funds Working Group\* #**

The Working Group represents experts from the ten program areas defined in the federal legislation. Representatives of the MAG Bicycle Task Force, MAG Pedestrian Working Group, Street Committee, and Management Committee are included in the Working Group. The Working Group evaluates applications for enhancement funds from the MAG region, and forwards a ranked list of applications to the MAG Regional Council.

Co-Chairmen:  
**Councilmember Greg Stanton**,  
City of Phoenix  
**Mike Hutchinson**,  
City of Mesa  
Staff Contact: *Dawn M. Coomer*

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES (Continued)

### Human Services Technical Committee\*

This committee is comprised of staff from municipalities, local community councils and United Way organizations, the Regional Behavioral Health Authority, the local Area Agency on Aging and state agencies (the Departments of Economic Security and Health Services). The Committee advises the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee on identification and prioritization of regional human service issues, and assists in the formulation of the Annual Human Services Plan.

Chairman: **Sandra Reagan,**

Southwest Valley Community Network

Staff Contact: *Dennis Smith*

### Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Committee\*

This committee consists of representatives from Federal Highway Administration, Arizona DOT, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Valley Metro, Arizona State University and twelve MAG member agencies. The committee has developed a Strategic Plan and a regional ITS architecture to serve as the roadmap for ITS implementation in the region. The ITS Committee serves as the regional forum for planning, programming federal funds and coordination of technology-based solutions in the regional multimodal transportation system. Although the focus of the commit-

tee is primarily on publicly owned infrastructure, many of the ITS applications in the region serve as the source of information for value added products and services from private sector ITS partners such as radio and TV stations.

Chairman: **Jim Book,** City of Glendale

Staff Contact: *Sarah Joshua*

### Pedestrian Working Group\*

The Pedestrian Working Group consists of representatives of MAG member agencies, as well as the development, architecture, and landscape architecture communities. The Working Group will annually review and update the MAG pedestrian plan and develop activities to educate the region about the benefits of walking.

Chairman: **Bill Pupo,** City of Surprise

Staff Contact: *Maureen DeCindis or*

*Dawn M. Coomer*

### Population Technical Advisory Committee

This committee is comprised of technical oriented staff from either the planning department or manager's office of MAG member agencies. The purpose of the committee is to participate in MAG population-related activities. This committee also has responsibility for coordinating preparations for each Census.

Chairman: **George Pettit,** Town of Gilbert

Staff Contact: *Harry Wolfe*

### PSAP Managers Group

This committee consists of Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Managers from the MAG member agencies. This Group oversees the technical needs and provides overall coordination of the Maricopa County 9-1-1 System.

Chairman: **Susan MacFarlane,**

City of Phoenix

Staff Contact: *Dennis Smith*

### Regional Bicycle Task Force

The Regional Bicycle Task Force is composed of representatives from MAG member agencies, the Arizona Department of Transportation, and Valley Metro. The Task Force has developed a Regional Bicycle Plan. The Task Force also encourages the implementation of this plan by recommending bicycle-related projects for funding from federal and other sources.

Chairman: **Pat McDermott,**

City of Chandler

Staff Contact: *Maureen DeCindis or*

*Dawn M. Coomer*

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES (Continued)

### Solid Waste Advisory Committee\*

This committee consists of public officials, representatives of public interest groups, private citizens, and citizens or representatives of organizations with substantial economic interest in the outcome of the planning process. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Management Committee and Regional Council on solid waste management matters affecting the region.

Chairman: **Bruce Henning**,

City of Phoenix

Staff Contact: *Brenda Geisen*

### Standard Specifications & Details Committee

This committee consists of representatives from city engineering departments and the construction industry. The committee makes recommendations on proposed amendments to the *MAG Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction*.

Co-Chairmen:

**Rodney Ramos**,

City of Scottsdale

**Doug Davis**,

City of Mesa

Staff Contact: *Paul Ward*



### Street Committee

The Street Committee includes local agency transportation planners and engineers. The committee makes recommendations on street projects to be funded with federal monies from the Transportation Equity Act (TEA 21) of 1998, and provides input for the five-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Chairman: **Don Herp**,

City of Phoenix

Staff Contact: *Paul Ward*

### Telecommunications Advisory Group

This group was formed by the Regional Council in 1994 to encourage the development of telecommunication infrastructure and applications that increase government efficiency, improve access to public information, and expedite delivery of local government services in Maricopa County.

Chairman: **Greg Binder**,

City of Phoenix

Staff Contact: *Heidi Pahl*

### Transportation Review Committee

This committee is composed of high level staff from the member agencies. The committee was established in March 1994 to provide input on the Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program.

Chairman: **Jan Dolan**,

City of Scottsdale

Staff Contact: *Eric Anderson*

### Water Quality Advisory Committee\*

This committee consists of a wide variety of representatives from regional and state water quality related agencies, the private sector, civic organizations, and the general public. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the MAG Management Committee and Regional Council on water quality matters affecting the MAG area.

Chairman: **Roger Klingler**,

City of Scottsdale

Staff Contact: *Brenda Geisen*

### 9-1-1 Oversight Team #

This team consists of high level officials from police and fire departments of the member agencies. The team was formed in December 1993 to provide additional participation by management in the coordination of the MAG Regional 9-1-1 System.

Chairman: **Harry Beck**,

City of Phoenix

Staff Contact: *Dennis Smith*

# WHAT IS MAG EMPOWERED TO DO?

## FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

As depicted in Figure 6, certain federal actions require that regional plans in large urban areas be prepared. For the Maricopa County region, MAG has been designated in the following four areas:

1. **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**
2. **Water Quality Planning Agency**
3. **Lead Air Quality Planning Agency**
4. **Solid Waste Planning Agency**

### Metropolitan Planning Organization

As the MPO, MAG has the following transportation related responsibilities:

- Conduct a federally certified transportation planning process
- Carry out an ongoing public involvement process
- Develop and apply management systems (pavement, bridge, congestion, transit, intermodal, safety)
- Prepare a five-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that includes all transportation projects in the region (includes federal, state, local and privately funded projects)
- Prepare a multimodal Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) with a 20-year

time horizon (freeways, arterials, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, demand management)

- Ensure conformity for all transportation plans, programs and projects with air quality plans.

### Water Quality Planning

As the water quality planning agency for the region, MAG develops an areawide water quality management plan. This requirement is in response to Section 208 of the Water Pollution Control Act of 1972.

### Air Quality Planning

As the lead air quality planning agency, MAG determines which elements of a revised Air Quality Implementation Plan will be planned, implemented and enforced by the state and local governments. In addition, MAG produces air quality plans for carbon monoxide, particulates and ozone.

### Solid Waste Planning

As the solid waste planning agency, MAG is responsible for undertaking areawide solid waste management planning. This requirement is in response to Section 4006 (b) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976.

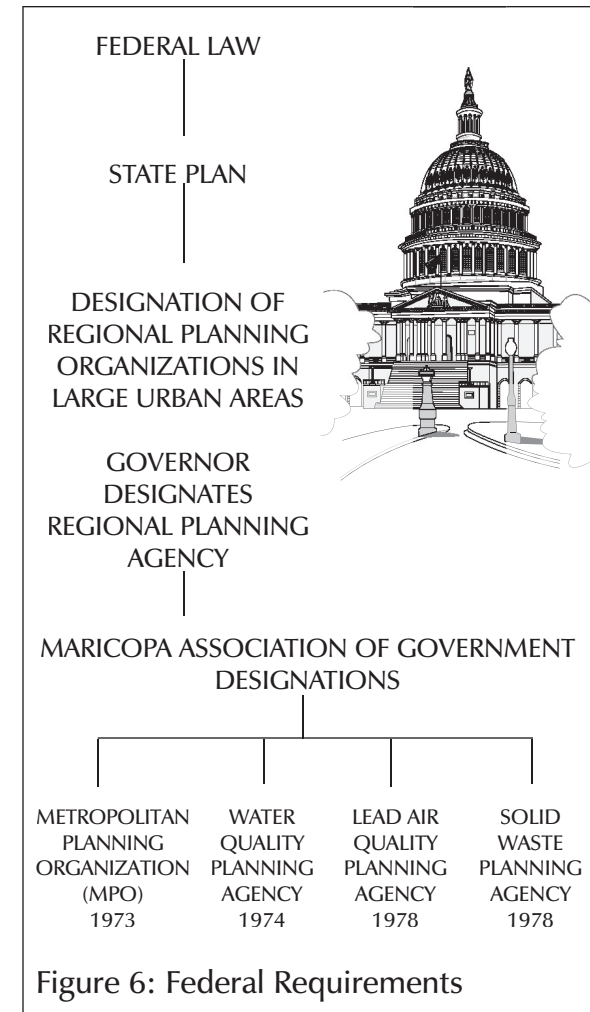


Figure 6: Federal Requirements



# WHAT IS MAG EMPOWERED TO DO? (Continued)

## STATE REQUIREMENTS

At the state level, legislative action, a Governor's executive order, or a contract may result in state programs or plans. In accordance with these programs or plans, the Governor may designate an agency to develop regional plans or programs. These relationships and the resulting MAG requirements are depicted in Figure 7.

State-designated MAG responsibilities:

1. Executive Order – Population Updates and Projections
2. Legislation – Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) 28-6308, 28-6353 and 28-6354 outline transportation requirements
3. Contract – Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Contract for human services planning

### Population Updates and Projections

In Arizona, Executive Order 95-2 provides for the preparation of population updates and projections. In this Executive Order, regional councils are provided a role in developing population updates and projections. Each year, MAG recommends population updates for July 1 of the current year to the DES. In addition to providing the updates to DES, MAG also produces population projections for this region every five years.

## Transportation Requirements

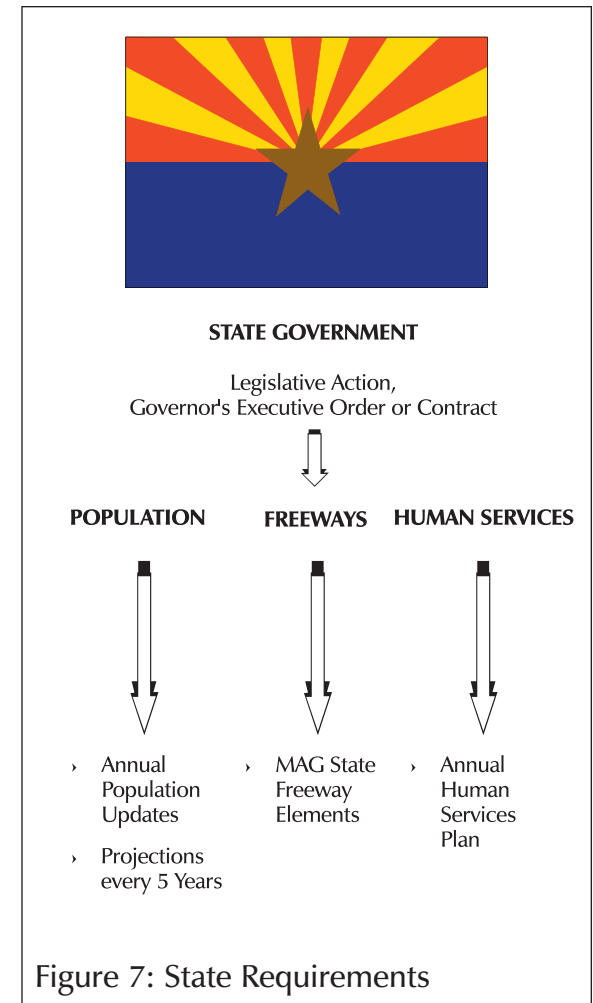
ARS 28-6308, 28-6353 and 28-6354 resulted in various transportation-related responsibilities being given to MAG. The requirements outlined in this legislation include:

- Plan freeway corridors.
- Adopt freeway prioritization criteria.
- Approve freeway priorities.
- Approve material cost increases.
- Issue an annual report on the status of the system.

## Human Services Planning

In 1976, the Arizona DES began contracting with MAG to develop the annual Regional Human Services Plan. The plan includes locally identified human services problems and provides recommendations to DES on federal Social Services Block Grant (Title XX) funds.

More detailed information about MAG planning activities is provided in the following pages.



## MAG PLANNING ACTIVITIES

An overview of MAG planning activities follows. These are divided into federal related, state related and local related activities. Check marks (✓) have been placed next to activities that MAG is required to undertake. Information about MAG requirements is contained in the previous section, “What is MAG Empowered to Do?” The check marks are in accordance with the previous section.

### Federal Related Activities:



#### ■ TRANSPORTATION ✓

In 1973, the Federal Transportation Act established a requirement that each urbanized area establish a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO would be responsible for Section 134 of the United States Code, which required continuous, comprehensive and cooperative (3C) planning as the basis for any

request for federal funding in transportation. On December 14, 1973, MAG was designated as the MPO by Governor Jack Williams. Under the 1991 federal transportation legislation, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), MAG was recognized as a Transportation Management Area (TMA), a designation that carries further responsibilities. Also, ISTEA required a triennial certification process involving the MPO, state and federal agencies. More recently, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), enacted in 1998, strengthened the role of the MPO in regional transportation planning.

#### ■ AVIATION ✓

For aviation planning, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires, in accordance with Order 5100.38, that “when it exists the MPO designated by the Governor shall be the sponsor or cosponsor for metropolitan and/or regional system planning projects.”

The MAG Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP) was updated in December 1993. This plan evaluated the need for expansions to existing airports and the construction of new airports. A major objective of the RASP Update was to

meet the air transportation needs of the region to the year 2015. When local airport projects funded by FAA are being considered, the FAA utilizes the RASP in evaluating the local projects. MAG is currently pursuing an update of the RASP which will be completed in 2002.

#### ■ WATER QUALITY ✓

In 1974, Governor Jack Williams designated MAG as the water quality planning agency for Maricopa County. This designation was in response to Section 208 of the Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. In this capacity, MAG develops an areawide water quality management plan. The MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan describes the preferred wastewater treatment system for this region. In this analysis, wastewater flows, water conservation, wastewater reuse, and sludge management are examined. The MAG member agencies provide their plans for future wastewater facilities, which are considered for the regional plan. In order for wastewater treatment plants to receive a permit for construction and operation from Maricopa County or an Aquifer Protection Permit from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, they must be consistent with areawide water quality management plan.

## PLANNING ACTIVITIES (Continued)

### ■ AIR QUALITY ✓

On February 7, 1978, Governor Wesley Bolin designated MAG as the lead air quality planning organization for this region. As the air quality planning agency, MAG determines which elements of a revised Air Quality Implementation Plan will be planned, implemented and enforced by the State and local governments in Arizona. As the lead air quality planning agency, MAG produces air quality plans for carbon monoxide, particulates and ozone. The commitments for implementing these plans are sought from the member agencies and the State. Through the MAG process, local governments determine which measures they can implement.

### ■ SOLID WASTE ✓

On January 10, 1979, Governor Bruce Babbitt designated MAG as the regional agency responsible for undertaking area wide solid waste management planning. This designation was in response to Section 4006(b) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. The MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, the most recent planning effort, was completed in December 1993. Several updates of the Solid Waste Facilities Summary, Waste Generation Rates, and Solid Waste Management Program Elements of the Plan have been conducted by MAG.

### State Related Activities:

### ■ HUMAN SERVICES ✓

On March 3, 1976, the MAG Regional Council authorized the development of a regional human services plan. This plan includes locally identified human services problems and provides recommendations to DES on federal Social Services Block Grant (Title XX) funds.

On July 1, 1976, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) contracted with the Maricopa Association of Governments to develop the annual regional human services plan, which is the result of collaboration among all the planners, funders, DES and local governments in Maricopa County. It includes funding recommendations made to DES for approximately \$4.5 million in federal funds. These funds are contracted to local agencies providing social services to children, adults, elderly, and persons with physical and developmental disabilities in Maricopa County.

The Homeless Task Force, created by the MAG Regional Council in 1986, has developed a regional plan to address homelessness in Maricopa County. This plan stresses a partnership between federal, state, local and county governments and the private/religious sectors. It

includes strategies focusing on homeless individuals, families, substance abusers, mentally ill, elderly and persons with disabilities.

On December 8, 1999, the MAG Regional Council authorized the creation of a Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness. The purpose of this committee is to assume responsibility for the annual regional HUD Continuum of Care application for service to homeless persons. In addition, the committee conducts a year-round comprehensive process to address the broad range of issues related to homelessness.

In 1975, in response to mandates in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), the Regional Council formed a Technical Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice. The purpose of the committee was to develop a plan dealing with the deinstitutionalization of status offenders from the juvenile justice system. This activity has evolved into review and recommendation of JJDP funds to units of local government and non-profit agencies, to prevent or minimize the involvement of children in the juvenile justice system.

In July 1995, the Governor's Office for Children informed MAG that the selec-

## PLANNING ACTIVITIES (Continued)

tion process for the JJDP funds had been centralized at the state level, and the involvement of MAG would be through the state committee. In 1999, MAG increased its involvement with the Governor's Division of Children, with appointment to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee and involvement with planning for the new Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant.

### ■ POPULATION ✓

On July 1, 1988, Governor Rose Mofford signed Executive Order 88-10 which provided for the preparation of population estimates and projections for the State of Arizona. In this Executive Order, regional councils are provided a role in developing population estimates and projections. On February 10, 1995, a revised Executive Order 95-2 was issued by the Governor, indicating that only one official set of population projections would be developed every five years.

Each year, MAG recommends to the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) the population updates for July 1 of the current year. These updates are utilized by the State for planning purposes and for the distribution of lottery funds to local government. In addition to providing population updates to DES, MAG also produces long-range

population projections for this region every five years. These projections are used by state agencies for planning purposes. They are also used by MAG for regional planning and serve as the foundation for the transportation planning process.

### ■ MAG FREEWAY PROGRAM ✓

In January 1992, the Regional Council established the Freeway Program Monitoring function. This function was recommended in the Performance Audit of the Arizona Department of Transportation's Urban Highways Program for Maricopa County. Principal activities include monitoring the implementation by ADOT of the MAG Freeway Program, developing an Annual Report on the MAG Freeway Program and conducting public hearings on the Report.

### Local Related Activities:

#### ■ 9-1-1 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER

In the late 1970s, MAG formed a committee to implement the 9-1-1 emergency telephone number system in Maricopa County. This system became operational on September 9, 1985. A MAG committee comprised of the public safety answering point managers meets

on a regular basis to make recommendations regarding operational issues and to guide the purchase of new equipment to insure system compatibility. The City of Phoenix serves as the contract agent for the system.

### ■ SPECIFICATIONS AND DETAILS FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION

The desire for the uniformity of building specifications for public works construction predated the formation of MAG. The cities came together in 1966 to produce a set of documents to encourage uniformity. MAG subsequently accepted the sponsorship and responsibility of keeping the documents current and viable. The *MAG Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction* represent the best professional thinking of representatives of several public works departments, and are reviewed and refined by members of the construction industry. The goal of the specifications is to eliminate conflicts and confusion, lower construction costs, and encourage more competitive bidding by private contractors. The specifications assist smaller communities and agencies who often cannot afford to promulgate such standards for themselves. FY 2002 updates are now available for review on-line and are available for sale in binders.



## PLANNING ACTIVITIES (Continued)

### ■ TELECOMMUNICATIONS

In September 1994, the Regional Council formed the MAG Electronic Highway Users Group, now the Telecommunications Advisory Group. Through the MAGTAG Regional Connections Project, all member agencies now have Internet connectivity, e-mail and a basic Web presence. The committee guides the Regional Videoconferencing System. The MAGTAG and ITS Committees are jointly working on a Regional Community Wide Area Network (WAN) study.

### ■ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PLANNING

At the request of the Regional Council, the Human Services Coordinating Committee developed a regional plan to address the critical issue of domestic violence. The plan includes 41 recommendations in the areas of prevention/early intervention, crisis and transitional response, coordination and evaluation, and long term response. A regional Domestic Violence Council was established to implement the plan's recommendations.



### ■ YOUTH ISSUES PLANNING

On February 23, 1994, the Regional Council recommended that MAG assume a greater role in the regional coordination and planning related to the positive development of youth. The MAG Youth Policy Advisory Committee was created to assume these tasks. The first completed tasks were the Model Regional Curfew Ordinance and the Inventory of Municipal Prevention, Intervention and Public Safety Programs. The committee developed a program to address graffiti, including a regional model ordinance.

### ■ ELDERLY MOBILITY PLANNING

MAG initiated a local planning process called the *MAG Elderly Mobility Initiative*. The initiative, spearheaded by a 30-member Elderly Mobility Stakeholder Working Group, has developed a Regional Action Plan on Aging and Mobility providing specific and regional strategies in the following areas: Alternative Transportation Modes; Older Driver Competency; Infrastructure and Land Use; and Education and Training. An extensive public involvement effort is being conducted to solicit input from Valley seniors and baby-boomers on transportation barriers and potential solutions. This input will help guide the development and implementation of the Regional Action Plan.

In 2002, MAG hosted a national conference on aging and mobility with other partners around the country.

### HOMELESS PLANNING

In June 1999, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requested that MAG assume responsibility for the development and submission of a regional coordinated grant application for federal Stewart B. McKinney Act funds. The Regional Council authorized MAG to assume this responsibility and to develop a regional plan that would enhance and link services to homeless people in the Valley.

### ■ BUILDING CODES

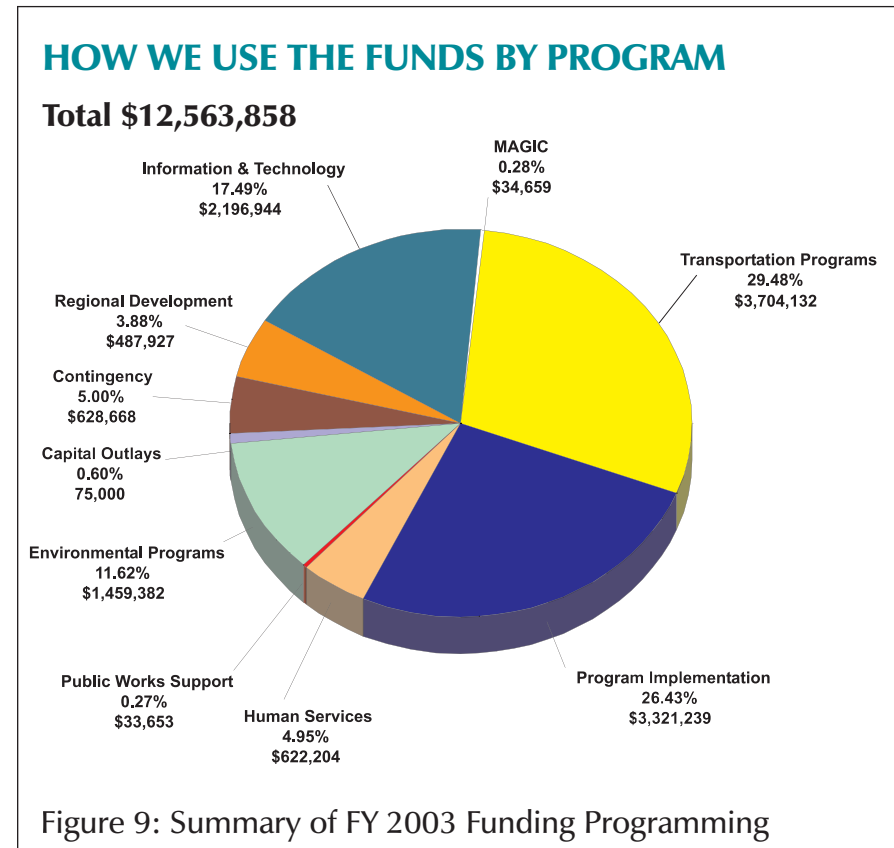
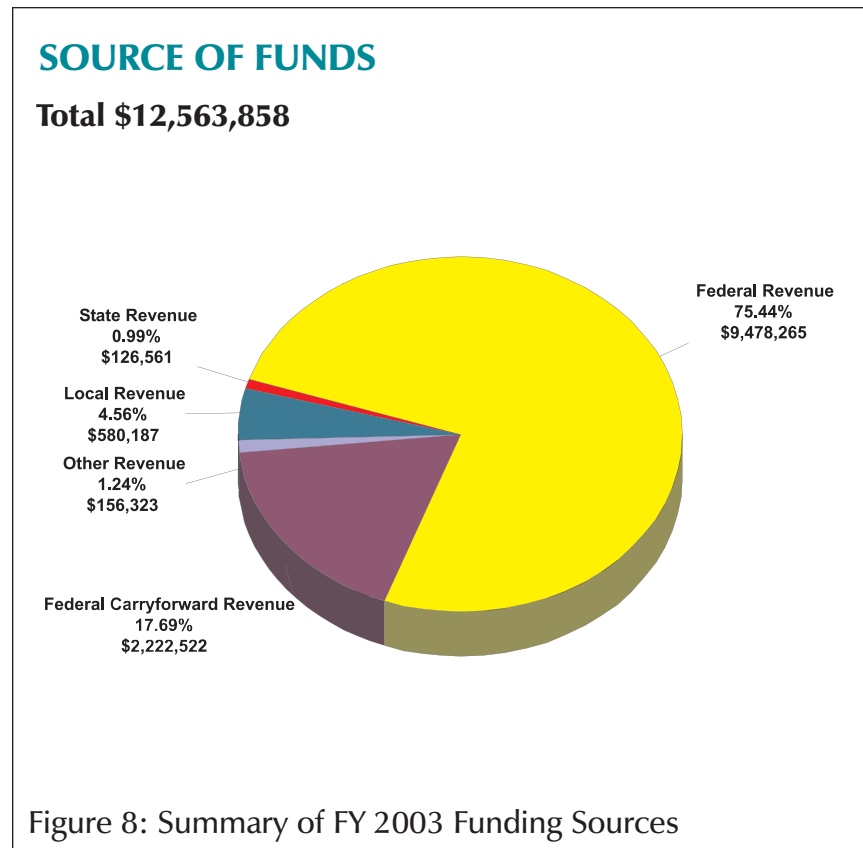
When MAG was formed in 1967, one of the first issues addressed was local building codes. The MAG Building Codes Committee makes recommendations on and promotes uniformity in the development, interpretation and enforcement of building codes in Maricopa County.

## HOW ARE MAG ACTIVITIES FUNDED?

Funding to support MAG activities is provided from a variety of sources, with federal and state grants comprising the principal source of funding. In addition, membership

dues and special assessments, which are based on population and assessed from each member agency, provide a significant source of revenue to support MAG regional

planning activities. A pie chart depicting a summary of funding sources for fiscal year 2003 is provided in Figure 8.



## HOW ARE VOTES TAKEN AT MAG?

- All votes of the Regional Council and Management Committee are taken on the basis of one vote per member. This is referred to as a *numerical vote*.
- MAG member agencies have the option of requesting a *weighted vote*. If a weighted vote is taken, the numerical vote shall have no effect unless concurred in by the weighted vote.
- The weighted voting procedure applies only to the MAG Regional Council and Management Committee.
- For a weighted vote to pass, the following two conditions must be met:
  1. The vote is required to pass by a majority of the members present (numerically). For example, if all 31 Regional Council members are present at a meeting, 16 are required to vote in favor of the motion.
  2. The vote is also required to pass by weight according to share of population. In the case of the example provided above, the 16 members that vote in favor of the motion represent a majority of the population.
- If the weighted vote does not pass, the original numerical vote has no effect.
- Percentages for the weighted vote are based on the latest Special or Decennial Census population.
- Each member receives at least one weighted vote even if its population is less than one percent of the population of member agencies. See the weighted voting information in the table on the right.
- ADOT, RPTA and CTOC cast votes only on transportation related issues. The two State Transportation Board members shall always have one vote on such issues in a weighted vote.
- If a weighted vote is requested, it is taken on a roll call basis.

### MAG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL COUNCIL WEIGHTED VOTING

| Member Agencies .....                              | # of Votes |            |
|--|------------|------------|
|  | RC         | MC         |
| 1. Apache Junction.....                            | 1          | 1          |
| 2. Avondale.....                                   | 1          | 1          |
| 3. Buckeye .....                                   | 1          | 1          |
| 4. Carefree .....                                  | 1          | 1          |
| 5. Cave Creek .....                                | 1          | 1          |
| 6. Chandler .....                                  | 6          | 6          |
| 7. El Mirage.....                                  | 1          | 1          |
| 8. Fountain Hills.....                             | 1          | 1          |
| 9. Gila Bend .....                                 | 1          | 1          |
| 10. Gila River Indian Community .....              | 1          | 1          |
| 11. Gilbert.....                                   | 4          | 4          |
| 12. Glendale .....                                 | 7          | 7          |
| 13. Goodyear .....                                 | 1          | 1          |
| 14. Guadalupe .....                                | 1          | 1          |
| 15. Litchfield Park .....                          | 1          | 1          |
| 16. Maricopa County (Unincorporated) .....         | 7          | 7          |
| 17. Mesa.....                                      | 13         | 13         |
| 18. Paradise Valley .....                          | 1          | 1          |
| 19. Peoria.....                                    | 3          | 3          |
| 20. Phoenix.....                                   | 43         | 43         |
| 21. Queen Creek .....                              | 1          | 1          |
| 22. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community..... | 1          | 1          |
| 23. Scottsdale .....                               | 7          | 7          |
| 24. Surprise .....                                 | 1          | 1          |
| 25. Tempe.....                                     | 5          | 5          |
| 26. Tolleson .....                                 | 1          | 1          |
| 27. Wickenburg .....                               | 1          | 1          |
| 28. Youngtown.....                                 | 1          | 1          |
| 29. ADOT .....                                     | 1          | 1          |
| 30. RPTA (Management Committee only) ....          | 0          | 1          |
| 31. CTOC (Regional Council only) .....             | 1          | 0          |
| <b>TOTAL.....</b>                                  | <b>116</b> | <b>116</b> |

## WHAT IS THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF MAG?

MAG is a voluntary association of local governments formed as a non-profit 501 (C)(4) corporation. The operating procedures for MAG are contained in the Articles of Incorporation and in the By-Laws.

The legal framework of MAG as a Council of Governments is significant because the agency is formed by and accountable to its member agency local governments. Each member chooses to join MAG by a resolution. Although it performs several important tasks mandated by state law, MAG is not formed by state law.

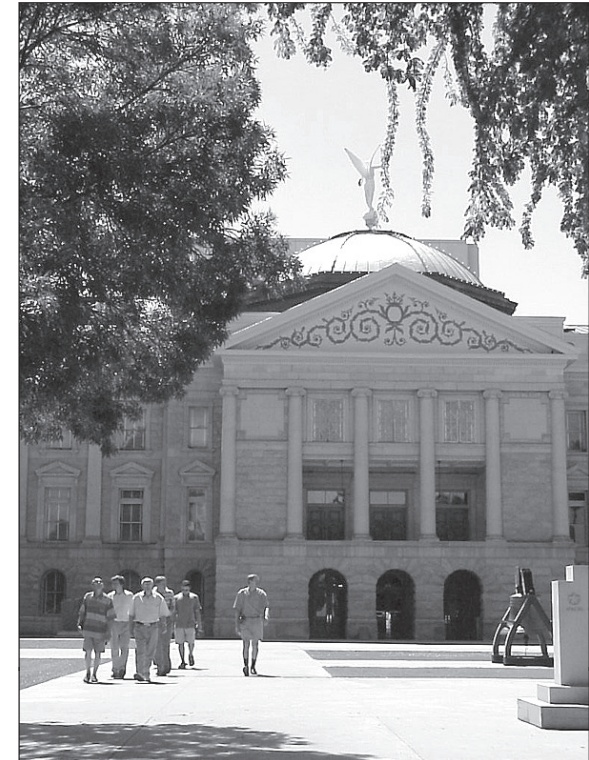
The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) By-Laws were first passed and adopted by the Regional Council in March 1968. The most recent amendment to the By-Laws occurred in June 2002.

The MAG Articles of Incorporation, which formed a non-profit corporation under the provisions of Title X of the Arizona Revised Statutes, were adopted in October 1967. If you would like additional information regarding the Articles of Incorporation, please contact the MAG office.

## MAG'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LEGISLATURE

As a regional planning agency, MAG is sometimes requested to provide information to Arizona legislators and/or legislative staff. When MAG representatives testify at the Legislature, they are providing information that is often of a technical nature regarding agency planning activities.

Although MAG is not a lobbying entity, state law contains a broad definition of lobbying in its requirements. Under this definition, some of MAG's communication with state employees may be considered lobbying. In accordance with the law, the agency has decided to register key staff as lobbyists.





## WHAT ARE SOME OF MAG'S RECENT SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS?

### Air Quality Planning

MAG has been instrumental in preparing a number of air quality plans which have been submitted to EPA in recent years. These plans have included commitments for implementation of some of the strongest air pollution control measures in the nation, including requirements for cleaner motor vehicle fuels, centralized and roadside vehicle emissions tests, gasoline pump vapor recovery nozzles, employer trip reduction plans, fireplace use restrictions, and many additional measures. A list of the plan submittals made since 1990 is provided below.

- Revised MAG 1999 Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10
- Revised MAG 1999 Serious Area Carbon Monoxide Plan
- MAG 1999 Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10
- MAG 1999 Serious Area Carbon Monoxide Plan
- MAG 1995 Revision to the Ozone Modeling Attainment Demonstration
- MAG 1994 Ozone Modeling Attainment Demonstration

*It all adds up to cleaner air*

- 1994 Addendum to the MAG 1993 Ozone Plan
- 1994 Addendum to the MAG 1993 Carbon Monoxide Plan
- MAG 1993 Revisions to the Particulate Plan for PM-10
- MAG 1993 Carbon Monoxide Contingency Measure and Contingency Progress
- MAG 1993 Carbon Monoxide Plan
- MAG 1993 Ozone Plan
- MAG 1991 Particulate Plan for PM-10

### Freeway Planning

In the last decade, significant developments have occurred in transportation planning and funding. In 1985, the voters of Maricopa County approved Proposition 300, which included a one-half cent sales tax to complete new freeways in the MAG system. Although a national recession followed the 1985 vote, significant freeway segments have been completed due to the passage of the one-half cent sales tax.

ADOT has implemented a Life Cycle Program to ensure that costs and revenues are in balance. Also in 1992, MAG created the Fiscal Analysis Unit to monitor ADOT and issue a status report on the Freeway System. Since 1992, the Annual Report has indicated that the Life Cycle Program developed by ADOT has been in balance with costs and revenues and construction schedules have been met.

In 1996, the Regional Council reassessed the revenue available for the MAG Freeway Program and established new priorities. These priorities accelerated the Freeway Program and completed the unfunded segments by the year 2014. The Freeway Program has been expanded to include high occupancy vehicle lane widening on the Superstition and Squaw Peak and improvements to major street crossings on Grand Avenue between I-17 and Loop 101.

The role that the MPO has in regional transportation planning was enhanced by TEA-21, together with a "fair share" increase in the federal funds coming to Arizona. One result has been a successful MAG plan, supported by ADOT, to accelerate the planned completion of the regional freeway program from 2014 to 2007, together with the addition of improvements to Grand Avenue, the Superstition Freeway and SR-85.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Continued)



### Public Participation

In fulfilling its numerous ongoing transportation planning responsibilities, MAG has also recently implemented an enhanced public participation process in accordance with TEA-21. Conducted in conjunction with ADOT and the Regional Public Transportation Authority, this process provides complete information on transportation plans, timely public notice, public access to key decisions, and opportunities for early and continuing involvement in the process. The enhanced public involvement process

involves transportation stakeholders as defined in TEA-21 and includes input from Title VI stakeholders (minority and low-income populations).

Efforts to increase public involvement have also been enhanced through the additions of a full-time Community Outreach Specialist and a part-time Disability Outreach Associate to provide outreach to Title VI populations. Many MAG materials are now available in alternative formats such as Spanish and Braille.

### 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Service Planning

In 1994, the MAG 9-1-1 System became one of the first systems in the nation to begin the implementation of cellular telephone selective routing. Through this process, calls made from cellular telephones are directed to the most appropriate response entity, therefore minimizing the time for responding to emergency situations. Prior to the implementation of selective routing, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) was receiving all 9-1-1 calls from cellular telephones. Since the implementation of the process, MCSO has reported a significant decrease in the number of calls received from cellular telephones.

### Electronic Technologies

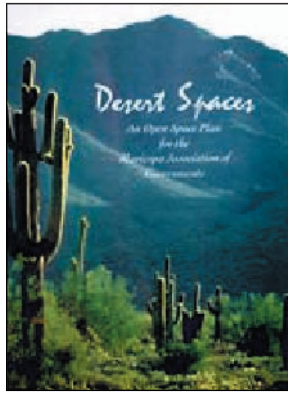
In 1994, MAG formed the Telecommunications Advisory Group which is assisting local public agencies in obtaining electronic mail and Internet connections. These connections are enabling MAG members to share information (i.e., agendas, minutes, notices) and databases (i.e., traffic counts, emissions inventories, Assessor's records) in an efficient and timely manner. The Telecommunications Advisory Group is also exploring ways to increase public access to information maintained by MAG and its member agencies, and to link its member agencies through a regional videoconferencing system.

### Regional Development Planning

In 1995, MAG adopted the Urban Form Study. This study examined four growth patterns with regard to future impacts on the region's air quality, traffic congestion, infrastructure costs and general quality of life factors. This led to the Valley Vision 2025 project and won the American Planning Association, Arizona Chapter, "Best Project" award in 1995.

The Desert Spaces Plan, adopted by the Regional Council in 1995, identified more than four million acres of natural resources in the region that are recommended for conservation or sensitive development. The plan was funded by the Flood Control

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Continued)



District of Maricopa County, Maricopa County, and MAG. Desert Spaces has become a regional guide for open space planning, and its recommendations are considered in a variety of local land use decisions. The plan won an award in 1996 from the Arizona Society of Landscape Architects.

### Planning for Transit

The Long Range Transit Plan has been updated to incorporate results of several transit studies. The plan calls for tripling local bus service to provide general mobility throughout the region, expanding express bus service to connect outlying areas to central activity centers, tripling dial-a-ride service to meet paratransit transportation needs, and a light rail transit system to meet the travel needs of central activity areas. Transportation and Human Services staff members worked collaboratively in a welfare-to-work grant

submission for federal access to jobs, to assist cash assistance recipients.

### Planning for Pedestrians

Often, facilities that encourage walking are considered as an afterthought. In other cases, pedestrian facilities are poorly planned and constructed, and do not get used. To address these issues, the MAG Pedestrian Working Group developed Policies and Design Guidelines for Pedestrian areas. The Policies and Design Guidelines won the American Planning Association, Arizona Chapter, "Best Ordinance" award in 1996. To encourage implementation of the policies and design guidelines, MAG offers pedestrian area design assistance to its members. So far, these efforts have resulted in more than \$1 million of federal construction funds for demonstration pedestrian facility projects in the Valley.

### Planning for Bicycle Travel

In 1999, the Regional Bicycle Task Force updated the MAG Regional Bicycle Plan. The update revised goals and objectives and updated plan maps. The Task Force works to make bicycling a viable option for daily travel trips. Since the adopted plan focuses on road facilities, the Task Force initiated development of an off-street pathway plan. Placed in the work program for FY 2000, the Regional Off-Street System will help improve the efficiency of the overall transportation system by pro-

viding access for persons who walk and bicycle. Increasing the number of people who walk and bicycle for daily trips will help reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.

### Planning for Safety and Security

The Human Services Division recently accomplished three major goals in response to regional concerns. As one of its 41 recommendations, the Regional Domestic Violence Council developed a workplace Domestic Violence Initiative involving Valley employers who have committed to addressing domestic violence. The Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness was awarded \$18.6 million in federal funds in its first year of operation, for service to the Valley's homeless people. The Elderly Mobility Initiative resulted in 25 recommendations designed to provide our Valley's older persons a menu of options to accommodate the changing abilities for driving and mobility.

The Maricopa Association of Governments is a resource and information service for all of its member agencies. MAG produces numerous publications that have proved beneficial to your agencies and to business, industry and other private sector interests.

These publications range from Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction to uniform code amendments to air quality plans.



## YOUR INFORMATION RESOURCE

MAG staff are available to answer your questions and provide technical information and assistance. A listing of staff contacts divided by program area is provided below. All contacts can be reached by phone at 602-254-6300.

### **MAG Administration**

*Dennis Smith*

Executive Director

*Tom Remes*

Senior Policy Planner

### **9-1-1 Emergency System**

*Dennis Smith*

Executive Director

### **Communications**

*Kelly Taft*

Communications Manager

### **Environmental Programs**

*Lindy Bauer*

Environmental Manager

*Ruey-in Chiou*

Air Quality Modeling Program Manager

*Dean Giles*

Air Quality Planning Program Manager

### **Fiscal Services**

*Becky Kimbrough*

Fiscal Services Manager

### **Human Services**

*Vacant*

Human Services Program Manager

*Charlene Moran Flaherty*

Homeless Planner

### **Information Services**

*Rita Walton*

Information Services Manager

*Harry Wolfe*

Senior Project Manager

*Audrey Skidmore*

Automation Support Program Manager

*Don Worley*

GIS and Socioeconomic Data Program Manager

*Anubhav Bagley*

Modeling Program Manager

### **Offices Services**

*Melissa Carrao*

Human Resources/Office Services Supervisor

### **Regional Development Planning/ Pedestrian Planning**

*Jack Tomasik*

Regional Development Manager

### **Transportation Planning and Programming**

*Eric Anderson*

Transportation Manager

*Roger Herzog*

Senior Project Manager

*Chris Voigt*

Senior Engineer

*Mark Schlappi*

System Analysis Program Manager

*Paul Ward*

Transportation Programming Manager

*Sarath Joshua*

Intelligent Transportation System Program Manager

*Dawn Coomer*

Multimodal Transportation Planner

### ***Does MAG need my help?***

Yes! Because MAG is made up of Valley communities, the decisions made by its members affect us all. MAG actively seeks public participation in all of its meetings and solicits citizen input in virtually every area of planning and policy making. Valley citizens serve on most of our policy advisory and technical advisory committees.

### **How can I learn more?**

You can reach us at (602) 254-6300, or through our e-mail address at [mag@mag.maricopa.gov](mailto:mag@mag.maricopa.gov). You can also visit our Web site at [www.mag.maricopa.gov](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov). Or, you can write to: Maricopa Association of Governments, 302 North 1st Avenue, Suite 300, Phoenix, Arizona, 85003. You may want to request to be put on our newsletter mailing list. Notices of public meetings are posted on the second floor of our office building, in our newsletter, and on our Web site under News and Events.





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